



Branching Out

May 15, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

Member News:

Our secretary, Julie Tritz, will be moving on to green pastures. She has accepted a position as a 4-H agent in West Virginia. Before moving to Lancaster County, Julie spent time in the Peace Corps in Morocco and working with a rural woman's poverty project in Ireland. Her new position enables her to continue her work to improve the lives of people living in poverty and also offers a tenure track. May 15 is her last day. She can be reached at jtritz@vt.edu. Julie has always been willing to pitch in on any TREE project, and was responsible for booking Jeff Kirwin for the September meeting. Her sense of humor, teamwork, and good ideas will be sorely missed.

TREE meetings:

Next meeting at Beaverdam Park, Gloucester Virginia, June 15 at 11 am. We will be meeting at Wickem Lodge. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share. This would be a great opportunity to invite any teachers that you know.

September 17 Meeting: Northumberland County Library in Heathsville from 11 to 2pm Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Kirwin, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.

Local Events:

Kids Fun with Fishing Day at Belle Isle State Park on Saturday, May 30 from 9 am to noon. Kids will learn how to cast, clean a fish, keep the Bay clean, and participate in fun activities like fish printing. Pools and bait provided, or kids can bring their own. Parents and siblings are encouraged to attend. Free. Registration requested at 462-5030.

Water Stewardship: Living Shorelines & Rain Barrels

June 18, 2009 (1-5 PM)

Longwood University's Hull Springs Farm will conduct a 4-hour workshop for educators that will explore many aspects of protecting water quality and aquatic habitats. We will visit an award-winning Living Shorelines marsh, look for resident animals, and help plant marsh grasses. Living Shorelines, a Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, is an environmentally friendly way to control erosion while providing habitat for shoreline wildlife. We will discuss how protecting shorelines

is an important regional and watershed issue. Participants will also make a functioning rain barrel from a recycled pickle barrel that they will take home. They will learn how to plan educational rain barrel workshops in their own schools and communities. They will also receive a CD with watershed and rain barrel presentations, plus a copy of Virginia's Water Resources: A Tool for Teachers correlated to Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL). It features information and activities for teachers to support interdisciplinary and problem-based teaching about watersheds, water quality, stewardship, and management issues. Workshop is open to teachers, teachers-in-training, and natural resource professionals. Dress appropriately for the weather and outdoor activities. \$47.00 (includes finished rain barrel, Virginia's Water Resources: A Tool for Teachers, optional canoe trip, and other materials) Pre-registration is required by June 9, 2009 by calling Bobbie Burton at 804-472-2621 (email: hullspringsfarm@longwood.edu)

For more information: www.longwood.edu/hullspringsfarm/

Training Opportunity: NEW Estuaries 101 Curriculum

July 28th-29th, VIMS

CBNERRVA will be offering a training opportunity on the NEW Estuaries 101 curriculum, which consists of three modules (Earth, Life, and Physical Science-high school students) and uses estuaries as the context for developing content knowledge and skills relevant to biology, chemistry, and earth science.

Estuaries 101:

features data explorations

promotes hands-on learning activities

is correlated to national and state standards

emphasizes the ocean literacy principles and concepts

is available on-line

The training will provide an overview to all three modules of the curriculum, opportunities for field work and water quality testing, introduction to on-line data tools, and an introduction to the Chesapeake Exploration activities of Estuaries 101 specifically correlated to the Chesapeake Bay. There is no cost for this workshop. Please contact Sarah McGuire at mcguire@vims.edu if you are interested in more information on the workshop or to receive a registration packet!

Other Events:

Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training

May 20 – 21, 2009

This training will be held at the New Kent Forestry Center. For more information contact Lisa Deaton at lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov or (804) 328-3031.

Basic Geospatial Applications for Educators

May 29, 2009

This workshop will be held at WHRO Studios in Norfolk from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Educators will learn how to use the most recent geospatial classroom technology. For more information, contact Nick Koltun at nkoltun@odu.edu or (757) 755-5210.

Educator Workshop on Birds

Celebrate birds with Flying WILD, a new conservation education guide featuring interdisciplinary hands-on classroom activities along with information for engaging students in a school wide bird festival. Key concepts include migration, adaptation, the importance of habitat, and bird conservation efforts. Designed originally for middle school teachers and students, the guide contains activities suitable for all grade levels. All participants will receive a copy of the Flying WILD Activity guide and supplementary materials on Virginia birds.

Date: June 6, 2009 **Time:** 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Merrimac Farms Wildlife Management Area,
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/detail.asp?pid=37>

Cost: Free! Pre-registration is required.

Lunch: Bring a Brown Bag and have a picnic on the grounds

Contact: Suzie Gilley, 804-367-0188 or suzie.gilley@dgif.virginia.gov

PLT Advanced Workshop at Holiday Lake Forestry Camp

June 15, 2009

This is for PreK-12 educators. Holiday Lake Forestry Camp provides an in-the-woods residential camp experience for about eighty 13 – 16 year olds. PLT seeks camper nominations from teachers who have students interested in natural resources careers. Six teachers are also accepted per year into the residential camp program for professional development. Contact Lisa Deaton at (804) 328-3031 or lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov or visit the website at <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.shtml>

Project Webfoot Educator Workshop

June 16th, 9am-3:30pm, TCC Chesapeake

Project Webfoot is a wetlands education program and curriculum created by Ducks Unlimited for formal and non-formal educators for 4th through 6th grade students. Project Webfoot has partnered with Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) to offer teachers a chance to participate in fun, hands-on activities from the Project Webfoot Kit as well as learn the skills and methods for teaching about wetlands, waterfowl, and water. Free to the 1st 20 educators!

lbehm@tcc.edu

Ag in the Classroom

July 9th, 9am-2pm, Virginia Beach Farmers Market

The workshop is open to teachers and educators that would like new ideas and lesson plans about agriculture that meet Virginia sol requirements. The workshop is fun, educational and free! You will receive lots of free resource materials as well as lunch! Sign up now, space is limited to 20 per workshop. Call 757-385-4395 or email Kalvarez@vbgov.com to reserve your space

EcoHeritage Teacher's Institute

The Bay of the Algonquians 1609-2009-2029 Eco-Heritage Teacher's Institute

July 21st-24th, First Landing State Park

The four day session will focus on teaching collaborative ways to combine Virginia Native Indian Cultural and Social Studies With Natural History and Environmental Science

Participants will receive training materials and curriculum guides for: Virginia Native Indian Curriculum Guide, Project WET, Project WILD, Virginia State Parks, Your Backyard Classroom

Teachers will receive recertification credit.

All participants are asked to donate 2 hours of time at the Public Environmental Stewardship Event on the Saturday following the seminar. Register by email at: msteen1781@cox.net, 564-6421

James River Rundown

July 23rd, James River (Iron Gate to Ft. Monroe)

The idea of the Rundown is simple - river enthusiasts from across the Commonwealth will paddle, boat, tube, sail or otherwise cover small sections of the James River such that, taken in concert, the entire length of the James River - all 340-miles - will be traversed in one day. As part of their Rundown, River Runners may observe water quality, view wildlife, and simply enjoy the river. Moreover, friends and family can show support for the JRA and individual Runners by pledging support at the Runoff Rundown website (www.runoffrundown.org).

Wetlands workshop at the Claytor Nature Study Center of Lynchburg College, August 4, 5, and 6, 2009. The workshops are lead by a collaboration between Environmental Concern Inc., VA Resource Use Education Council, and local wetlands scientists. Registration and lunch and refreshments are provided by a grant from the VA Resource Use Education Council, on a first-come-first-serve basis. No-fee Registration is limited to 25 for each day. Day 2 is an advanced training with a pre-requisite of Day 1 (or evidence of previous WOW! Training).

This is the only WOW! and POW! opportunity offered in Virginia this year. Reserve your place by registering early at: http://www.wetland.org/education_schedule.htm

The Claytor Nature Study Center of Lynchburg College is a beautiful 470-acre preserve in the shadow of the Peaks of Otter in Bedford County, VA. We have served more than 5000 learners of all ages in environmental, nature, wetland and watershed studies over the past 3 years. With more than 40 acres of delineated wetlands along the Big Otter River, many other diverse natural habitats, and small conference facilities that place you in the forest canopy overlooking our wetlands, this should be a learning experience you will not soon forget.

Questions and more information? Email is best: eaton.g@lynchburg.edu

[From Charlene: I took both of these workshops in the past. WOW was \$25 and POW was \$50. What a great opportunity to take these at no cost.)

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Environmental Education Gaining Support as National Priority

Environmental education may not yet be mainstream by this 39th anniversary of Earth Day, but there is growing recognition that it should be, with record levels of new funding that would be proposed under a U.S. Senate and House bills introduced today as the "No Child Left Inside Act of 2009." The bills would provide \$100 million in new grants to schools that have adopted environmental literacy plans to provide environmental and outdoor educational opportunities for students and professional development for teachers.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) introduced the bipartisan bills this afternoon. The No Child Left Inside Coalition, one of the fastest-growing advocacy coalitions in the past two years with 1,300 member organizations representing over 50 million individuals, applauds the introduction. The environmental literacy movement has broad support from environmental, educational, business, public health, outdoor recreation, and conservation groups. Anecdotal evidence is growing that outdoor learning opportunities, as part of a comprehensive environmental education program, can increase test scores.

A growing number of supporters in Congress agree that environmental education is too important to be left to private charity and that it needs to be part of the core curriculum.

Learning Science in Informal Environments

The newly released National Research Council (NRC) report, *Learning Science in Informal Environments: People, Places, and Pursuits*, notes that "tens of millions of Americans, young and old, choose to learn about science in informal ways." The report stresses the need for professional development among educators in the field in light of the range of science learning in informal settings. http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12190

NOAA Environmental Visualization Lab

The NOAA Environmental Visualization Lab offers this new website with a wealth of content, including streaming and downloadable video files, high resolution satellite images, and various educational resources. Imagery and animations will continue to be updated. For best viewing quality, it is recommended to download the video file locally by right clicking on the file link and saving to a local computer drive. In the coming weeks they will be improving the site as they receive feedback, so please send any comments that you might have.

<http://www.nnvl.noaa.gov/>

How to Increase Office Productivity Using Free Software

How to Increase Office Productivity Using Free Software is a seven-part series that covers everything nonprofits need to know about moving from costly desktop office software to Google's free online office tools suite. This series offers tutorials for getting started with Google – using and configuring Google Mail (Gmail); Google Calendar; and Google Docs, including the spreadsheet and presentation functions – as well as a host of other free applications that increase productivity and are fun to learn. This series will show you how your organization can easily make use of free tools to achieve organizational objectives for both novice and experienced computer users. To read the final article, "Google Docs: Developing Presentations," click on the link above.

Announcing the 2009 EE Week Photo Blog Contest!

Submissions due by May 22nd

Do you have a positive story of how you and your organization are bringing environmental education to students? EE Week would like to hear about it! Upload your photos and stories on the EE Week Photo Blog at www.eeweek.org/photoblog, and enter the 2009 Photo Blog Contest.

The contest has two parts: submit a photo of an environmental education activity and a write brief narrative describing the activity in the photograph. The top three entries will win gift certificates to Acorn Naturalists (first place: \$150 gift certificate, second place: \$100 gift certificate, and third place: \$50 gift certificate.)

When submitting your photos to the contest, be sure to have all individuals in the photographs sign our release form (http://eeweek.org/assets/files/NEEF_Standard_Release_Form.pdf.) This form is required in order for your photo to be eligible for the Photo Blog Contest. Parent signatures are required for minors. No purchase necessary. All contest participants must be at least 18 years old, residents of the U.S., affiliated with an organization which provides K-12 educational programs and meet all eligibility requirements. Void where prohibited. For complete Photo Blog Contest rules, visit www.eeweek.org/rules.

Tools with a Cost:

Getting Started: Grant Writing Basics

If you are new to grant writing, this 90-minute webinar will help you identify the information you need to collect, and the files you should establish, to begin developing compelling grant proposals. Ms. Adams uses the GrantStation website as her training tool/resource so you will also get an inside look at GrantStation and the numerous resources it offers. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 2 pm and cost \$89. Visit the website listed above to register.

Identifying the Right Grantmaker

Identifying the right grantmaker for any program or project is a straightforward, step-by-step process that can greatly increase the possibility of securing grant funding. This webinar will walk you through the grant research process from start to finish. Ms. Adams will also take project suggestions from participants to demonstrate the best approach for finding the right grantmaker. The webinar will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 2 pm and costs \$89. Visit the website listed above to register.

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

BWET Grant Workshop

July 23rd, 3-4:30pm, Nauticus

Are you an organization who does outdoor education with Chesapeake Bay watershed K-12 students? Would you like more information about applying for federal grants to support your programs?

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office will again be holding Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant workshops throughout the watershed this summer. Projects funded through NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) competitive grant program support the

Chesapeake Bay Program's commitment to provide a meaningful watershed educational experience to every student in the watershed before graduation by delivering hands-on student programs and related teacher professional development.

For the next set of grants, applications will be due October 2009. Typical awards range from \$25,000 to \$200,000 annually for up to three years. Most regional, state, and local organizations are eligible; visit <http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/formaleducation.aspx>. RSVP to [Ann Marie](#) by July 16.

Community Watershed Protection Projects Funded

[RBC Blue Water Project: Community Action Grants](#)

The RBC Blue Water Project, an initiative of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), will provide \$50 million in grants through 2017 to support programs that foster a culture of water stewardship. The initiative's funding focus is Watershed Protection and Access to Safe Drinking Water. Launched in 2008, the RBC Blue Water Project Community Action Grants are provided to local grassroots organizations in Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean for projects devoted to informing, educating, and mobilizing people about watershed protection at the community level. Requests for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the Blue Water Project's website listed above for more information.

Jobs

We have had several requests from high school and college students about internships, both paid and unpaid, and our member organizations. Does anyone have any? We will include them in the next newsletter, or if you don't want to wait that long, we can send the contacts to you. Please contact faye.andrashko@vanacdn.net

Production Assistant

Description: Find a job you're wild about at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), the nation's largest member-supported conservation organization, which is at the forefront of global warming issues, reconnecting our children with nature, and protecting America's wildlife and habitat. We seek a production assistant to assist with print production process to include drafting and organizing bids, drafting purchase orders, routing proofs and proofreading, making design changes to art files, filing printed samples, archiving art files, tracking paper purchases and tracking the inventory of stored pieces for Circ Acquisition and Leaders. This position will also serve as back up to the Administrative Assistant. Additionally the production assistant will be assist with Premium purchasing including ordering, tracking deliveries and invoicing, manage inventory with fulfillment vendor, research new premium opportunities, and assist with monthly reports. Qualified individuals must have some college and a minimum of one year of experience in marketing or production, demonstrating a basic knowledge of print production.

Do you hear the call of the wild? Apply at <http://www.nwf.org/careergateway>

Job Type: Full Time permanent

Salary Detail: Based on Qualifications

Deadline: 6-19-2009

Organization: National Wildlife Federation
Contact Person: Patrice Garnett
Phone: (703)438-6227
E-Mail: garnettp@nwf.org
Mailing Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston VA 20190-5362 JOBS

Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Description: We seek a qualified individual to be the Communications and Outreach Coordinator. This person will be responsible for leading the recruitment and outreach effort to build the membership among local, regional and national NGO's for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed NGO coalition. This position will be responsible for coordinating campaign activities on multiple levels with numerous individuals in various organizations and locations. Specifically, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator will assist the coalition manager on planning and development of grassroots/grasstops outreach, political strategy, media outreach, organizing of conferences and workshops, research, writing and grant reporting.

- Qualified individuals must have a four year college degree. An advanced degree would be a plus.
- Additionally, a minimum of 3 years progressively responsible senior level experience is required in developing and implementing advocacy campaigns, grassroots organizing, media, and environmental advocacy.
- Overall, a minimum 5 years of experience is required.
- Experience with water resources management or Chesapeake Bay policy would be a plus.
- Excellent communication and writing skills are required.
- Proven capacity to design, implement and modify a national campaign plan is necessary for qualified individuals.
- Ability to coordinate various levels of staff activities to meet program goals will also be necessary.

Apply at <http://www.nwf.org/careergateway>

Job Type: Full Time permanent
Salary Detail: Based on Qualifications
Deadline: 6-13-2009
Organization: National Wildlife Federation
Contact Person: Patrice Garnett
Phone: (703)438-6227
E-Mail: garnettp@nwf.org
Mailing Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston VA 20190-5362

Teaming with Wildlife Program Associate

Description: The Teaming with Wildlife Program Associate will support state fish and wildlife agencies by conducting outreach and assisting with initiatives to further state wildlife action plan implementation. Responsibilities include developing and carrying out outreach activities; working with diverse partners (e.g. federal, state and private) to build support for state wildlife action plans and assisting with policy research and special projects. The Program Associate reports to the

Teaming with Wildlife Director and works closely with other Association staff to integrate state wildlife action plans into all areas of the Association's work.

Job Type: Full Time permanent

Salary Detail: \$50,000.00 yr

Deadline: 5-22-2009

Organization: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Contact Person: Liz Skipper

Phone: 202-624-5829

E-Mail: lskipper@fishwildlife.org

Mailing Address: 444 North Capitol Street,NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 20001

Director of Museum Education

The Science Museum of Virginia, a large multi-site state agency science center network, headquartered in historic Richmond, Virginia is seeking a dynamic, forward thinking Director of Museum Education to provide strategic leadership in creating and facilitating superior educational experiences for Museum guests, teachers and students. Visit www.smv.org to learn more about the SMV's educational vision and Commonwealth of Virginia's recruitment process. EOE/AA

<https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1240588384278>

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested.